GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4591
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
MALNUTRITION
TRILOCHAN KANUNGO

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to identify such States which are worst affected by child and pregnant mother malnutrition;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to mitigate child and pregnant mother malnutrition in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) As per latest Survey conducted by the National Family Health Survey-2, the States most affected by child (below 3 years) malnutrition are:

States	% of severe Malnutrition
Bihar	25.5
Madhya Pradesh	24.3
Uttar Pradesh	21.9
Rajasthan	20.8
Orissa	20.7

(b) Malnutrition is a multifaceted problem due to inadequate intake of food, poverty, poor socio-economic status, female illiteracy, rate of population growth, inadequate access of people to health services, safe drinking water, environmental sanitation, hygiene and other social services.

(c) Various programmes are being implemented by the Government for Women and Children. These are:
i) increased agricultural production;
ii) improving the purchasing power of the people through income-generating schemes;
iii) availability of essential food items at subsidised cost through public distribution system;
iv) nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast-feeding;
v) supplementary feeding programmes viz.

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme;
(ii) Special Nutrition Programme (SNP);
(iii) Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP);
(iv) Wheat Based Supplementary Nutrition Programme;
(v) Mid-Day Meal Programme etc., Besides these, Programmes for prevention of specific nutrient deficiency disorders such as National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control programme; Prophylaxis Programme to prevent blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency and Nutritional Anaemia due to Iron deficiency are a part of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme.Pilot project for control of micronutrient malnutrition is also under implementation.
vi) The recent Pradhan Mantri Grameena Yojana (PMGY) which envisages for the basic minimum services of rural roads, Primary Health, primary Education, Shelter, Drinking water and Nutrition.